

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Disposition of Remains of Deceased Indigents

**Policy  
Number**

E-7

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**Purpose**

To establish a policy with respect to the mode of disposition of the remains of deceased indigents.

**Background**

In the absence of instructions by the decedent, the surviving relatives of the decedent shall determine the mode of disposition of the decedent's remains, as described in Section 7100 of the Health and Safety Code. If, however, no provision concerning disposition is made by the decedent, or the estate is insufficient to provide for interment of the decedent and the duty of interment does not fall on any other person residing in the state or if such person can not after reasonable diligence be found within the state, then the Chief Medical Examiner is required by Health and Safety Code Section 7104 to arrange for the disposition of the decedent at County cost.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

In those cases in which the Chief Medical Examiner has no cogent reason to direct interment, disposition of the remains of deceased indigents will be by means of cremation unless the decedent has left instructions to the contrary or the surviving relative who has the right of decision under Section 7100 of the Health and Safety Code elects an alternate means of disposition.

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-11.

**Previous Board Action**

4-16-74 (69)

5-7-74 (44)

4-4-89 (51)

09-27-05 (1)

**CAO Reference**

1. Chief Medical Examiner
2. Health and Safety Code §§ 7100, 7104
3. Admin. Code, Article XI